

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 78, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The studies revealed that antibody 4A bound to the epitope defined by the sequence QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10) in human pIgR (residues 600 to 605 of the human sequence as set forth in SWISS-PROT) and to the epitope defined by the sequence LDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:11) in rat pIgR (residues 605-610 of the rat pIgR sequence), an epitope also bound by antibody 5D. Antibody 5D also bound to the epitope defined by the sequence KAIQDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:12) of human pIgR. ScFv 2E bound to the epitope defined by the sequence LDPRLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13) of rat pIgR. ScFv 2H bound to the epitope defined by the sequence DENKANLDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:14). ScFv 1F bound to the epitope defined by the sequence RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15). ScFvs 5F, 10H, 1C, 7H, and 6B all bound to the epitope defined by the sequence LDPRLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) A ligand of claim 1 which binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), which peptide is selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

9. (Amended) The ligand of claim 1, further wherein the ligand binds to an epitope selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPRLF

(SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPLRF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPLRF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

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21. (Amended) A method of claim 17, wherein the ligand selectively binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), which peptide is selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ligand binds to an epitope selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPLF (SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPLRF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPLRF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

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37. (Amended) A ligand of claim 32, which binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

38. (Amended) The ligand of claim 32, wherein the ligand binds to an epitope selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPRLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPRLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

49. (Amended) A method of claim 44, wherein the ligand binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the ligand binds to an epitope of pIgR selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPRLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPRLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

71. (Amended) A method of claim 67, wherein the ligand selectively binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), which peptide is selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

72. (Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein the ligand binds to an epitope selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPRLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPRLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

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85. (Amended) A method of claim 80, wherein the ligand binds to a peptide derived from human pIgR (SEQ ID NO:1), selected from the group consisting of: Lys487-Arg603, Lys487-Glu607, Lys487-Val611, Lys487-Arg615, Lys487-Ala618, Cys520-Arg603, Cys520-Glu607, Cys520-Val611, Cys520-Arg615, Cys520-Ala618, Lys577-Arg603, Lys577-Glu607, Lys577-Val611, Lys577-Arg615, Lys577-Ala618, Ser574-Arg603, Ser574-Glu607, Ser574-Val611, Ser574-Arg615, Ser574-Ala618, Val560-Arg603, Val560-Glu607, Val560-Val611, Val560-Arg615, Val560-Ala618, Cys544-Arg603, Cys544-Glu607, Cys544-Val611, Cys544-Arg615, and Cys544-Ala618.

86. (Amended) The method of claim 80, wherein the ligand binds to an epitope of pIgR selected from the group consisting of QDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:10), LDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:11), KAIQDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:12), LDPRLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:13), DENKANLDPRLF (SEQ ID NO:14), RLFADEREI (SEQ ID NO:15), and LDPRLFADE (SEQ ID NO:16).

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this amendment in adherence with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825. This amendment is accompanied by a floppy disk containing the above named sequences, SEQ ID NOS:1-26, in computer readable form, and a paper copy of the sequence information which has been printed from the floppy disk.